

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14, 16, 18-21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33-37, 39, 41, and 42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 19, 27, and 35 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at paragraph [0032] in the specification. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 19, 27, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sharma (U.S. Pat. No. 6,353,675). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With regard to independent claims 1, 19, 27, and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Sharma does not disclose or suggest at least a step of determining spatial variations of the printed image includes determining local variations in input data, determining half tone dot periodicity, and determining frequency or noise characteristics, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19, 27, and 35.

In particular, Sharma merely discloses a marking process detection system that detects the marking process based on the determined spatial characteristic, which is determined based on the power spectrum information of the image data. See figure 8 of Sharma. The Office Action asserts that Sharma discloses "at least one of determining local variations in input data" However, Sharma does not disclose at least a step of determining spatial variations of the printed image includes determining local variations in input data, determining half tone dot periodicity, and determining frequency or noise characteristics, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19, 27, and 35.

In the view of above, Sharma fails to disclose each and every element as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19, 27, and 35.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 19, 27, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Office Action also rejects claims 1-12, 14, 16, 18-21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33-37, 39, 41, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sharma, in view of Wang (U.S. Pat. No. 6,031,618). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 19, 27, and 35, Applicants respectfully submit that Sharma and Wang, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least a step of determining spatial variations of the printed image includes determining local variations in input data, determining half tone dot periodicity, and determining frequency or noise characteristics, as recited in the independent claims 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19, 27, and 35.

For reasons discussed above regarding independent claims 1, 19, 27, and 35, Sharma does not disclose or suggest at least the step of determining spatial variations as similarly recited in independent claims 1, 19, 27, and 35. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Wang also fails to make up the above-noted deficiency of Sharma. In particular, Wang discloses an approach to automatically identify a marking process using additional spectral information from the scanned material obtained through additional spectral channels. However, Wang is silent regarding a step of determining spatial variations of the printed image includes determining local variations in input data, determining half tone dot periodicity, and determining frequency or noise characteristics.

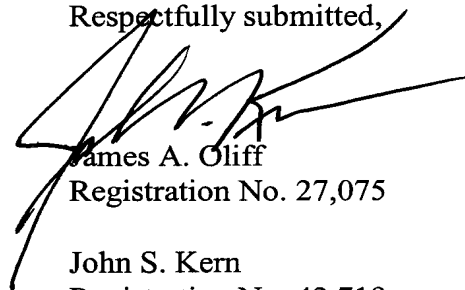
In view of above, Sharma and Wang, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter as recited in independent claims 1, 19, 27, and 35, which are therefore allowable. Claims 2-12, 14, 16, and 18 depend from independent claim 1; claims 20-21, 23, and 25-26 depend from independent claim 19; claims 28-29, 31, and 33-34 depend from independent claim 27; and claims 36-37, 39, and 41-42 depend from independent claim

35, which are therefore also allowable by virtue of their dependencies as well as for the additional features that they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-12, 14, 16, 18-21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33-37, 39, 41, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, 14, 16, 18-21, 23, 25-29, 31, 33-37, 39, 41, and 42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorneys at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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